

**From:** Michael Jaehrling  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/28/02 7:42pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To whom it may concern:

Yesterday I sent you a brief message stating my opinion regarding the Microsoft case. Today I would like to give you more reasons to leave Microsoft in peace:

I use Microsoft products, and appreciate them enormously.

I resent the government's stance on the basis that it presumes I am not fit to make decisions about which software I buy, and why.

If Microsoft is punished, that means they have been found a threat - how can a successful company's products be a threat to anyone other than its competitors. And if the latter is the problem, then the USA cannot claim to be a free market or a free country.

Please bear in mind that consumers did not complain about Microsoft, nor any community groups. Its competitors (unsuccessful ones), rather than competing fairly, resorted to seeking government favor to help them. You cannot allow failed companies to set terms that will throttle a competitor just because the former was unable to match up.

Governments should not protect some business at the expense of others. As someone once said - "when politicians determine what gets bought and sold, the first thing to get bought and sold is politicians".

Success, self-made and honest entrepreneurship such as that displayed by Bill Gates, should not be punished, but embraced and encouraged. Imagine how successful America would be if we had more men like him....

If all of the above is not enough, then look to your constitution. A company, like an individual, has the right to its property. This right is inviolable.

Please, for all our sakes, uphold Microsoft's right to compete freely and as it sees fit - do not penalize the good for being good.

Sincerely,

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